



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Monday, May 15, 2006
Contact: Rose Lynch, Director of Communications, 608-266-6753

Public Service Announcement

Wisconsin Minimum Wage Increases Effective June 1, 2006

On June 1, 2006, Wisconsin's minimum wage for adults increases from \$5.70 per hour to \$6.50 per hour. The new minor rate is \$5.90 per hour. Wisconsin's minimum wage rules also contain a number of specialized pay rates for persons employed in certain types of work.

The minimum wage rate for Wisconsin tipped employees does not change.

The increase in the minimum wage completes a two-step increase benefiting an estimated 200,000 low wage workers in Wisconsin. Governor Doyle proposed raising the minimum wage as part of his **Grow Wisconsin** initiative, the comprehensive plan he offered after taking office in 2003 to grow the economy and create good paying jobs. At the time, the minimum wage was \$5.15 an hour, unchanged since 1997. At his direction, Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman formed a task force of business and labor leaders who recommended the two-step increase from \$5.15 an hour to \$5.70 an hour on June 1, 2005 and to \$6.50 an hour on June 1, 2006.

Wisconsin's new minimum wage rates:

- **General minimum wage rate** increase to \$6.50/hour (currently \$5.70/hour)
- **Minor minimum wage rate** increase to \$5.90/hour (currently \$5.30/hour)
- **Opportunity minimum wage rate** increases to \$5.90/hour (currently \$5.30/hour)
- **Camp counselor minimum wage rate for workers age 18 and over**
 - Increases to \$270/week if no room or board provided (currently \$215/week)
 - Increases to \$217/week if board provided (currently \$164/week)
 - Increases to \$171/week if room and board provided (currently \$129/week)
- **Camp counselor minimum wage rate for workers age 17 and under**
 - Increases to \$225/week if no room or board provided (currently \$175/week)
 - Increases to \$171/week if board provided (currently \$133/week)
 - Increases to \$135/week if room and board provided (currently \$105/week)

The minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and golf caddies remain the same:

- **Agricultural minimum wage rate for workers age 18 and over**
 - Remains \$5.15/hour (Increased from \$4.05/hour on June 1, 2005)
- **Agricultural minimum wage rate for workers age 17 and under**
 - Remains \$4.25/hour (Increased from \$3.70/hour on June 1, 2005)
- **Golf caddy minimum wage rate**
 - Remains \$10.50 for 18 holes and \$5.90 for 9 holes (Increased from \$5.95 and \$3.35 respectively on June 1, 2005)

Employers with questions concerning the new minimum wage rates may contact the Equal Rights Division for more information either at the Madison office (608-266-6860) or at the Milwaukee office (414-277-4384). Information also is available at the Department's website, <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>